

**VERTIGO**

WILLINGHAM  
BUCKINGHAM  
LEIALOHA  
McMANUS

# FABLES

120

Oct '12  
suggested for  
mature readers  
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IT'S A DANGEROUS TIME.

BUT THIS MAY BE OUR **CHANCE** AT LONG LAST.



THERE IS POWERFUL.

AND NOW THAT SHE ISN'T IN IMMEDIATE DANGER OF **STARVING** TO DEATH, SHE MAY HAVE TIME ENOUGH TO RESTORE US.

PERHAPS.

EVEN A TIGER'S CARCASS WON'T LAST FOREVER.



IT DOESN'T HAVE TO LAST FOREVER. JUST LONG ENOUGH.

CONSIDER **THIS** THOUGH, MR. IVES. SHE'S BECOMING BESTIAL. SAVAGE.



WHO **CARES** WHAT BECOMES OF HER? ULTIMATELY, SHE'S DISPOSABLE, LIKE THE OTHERS. WE HAVE TO HARDEN OUR HEARTS AND THINK OF THE **GREATER GOOD**.

SO?

THE PLAN IS, OUR EXPOSURE TO HER IS SUPPOSED TO **PURIFY** US. BUT IT SEEMS MORE LIKE HER EXPOSURE TO US IS **DIMINISHING** HER.



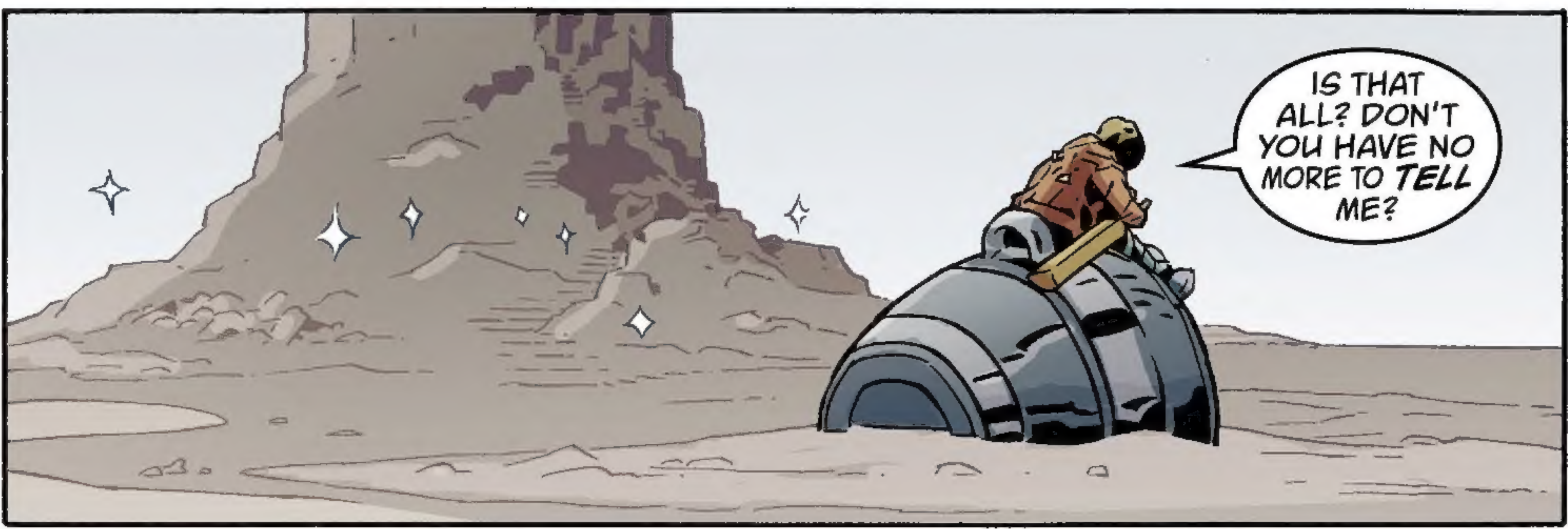
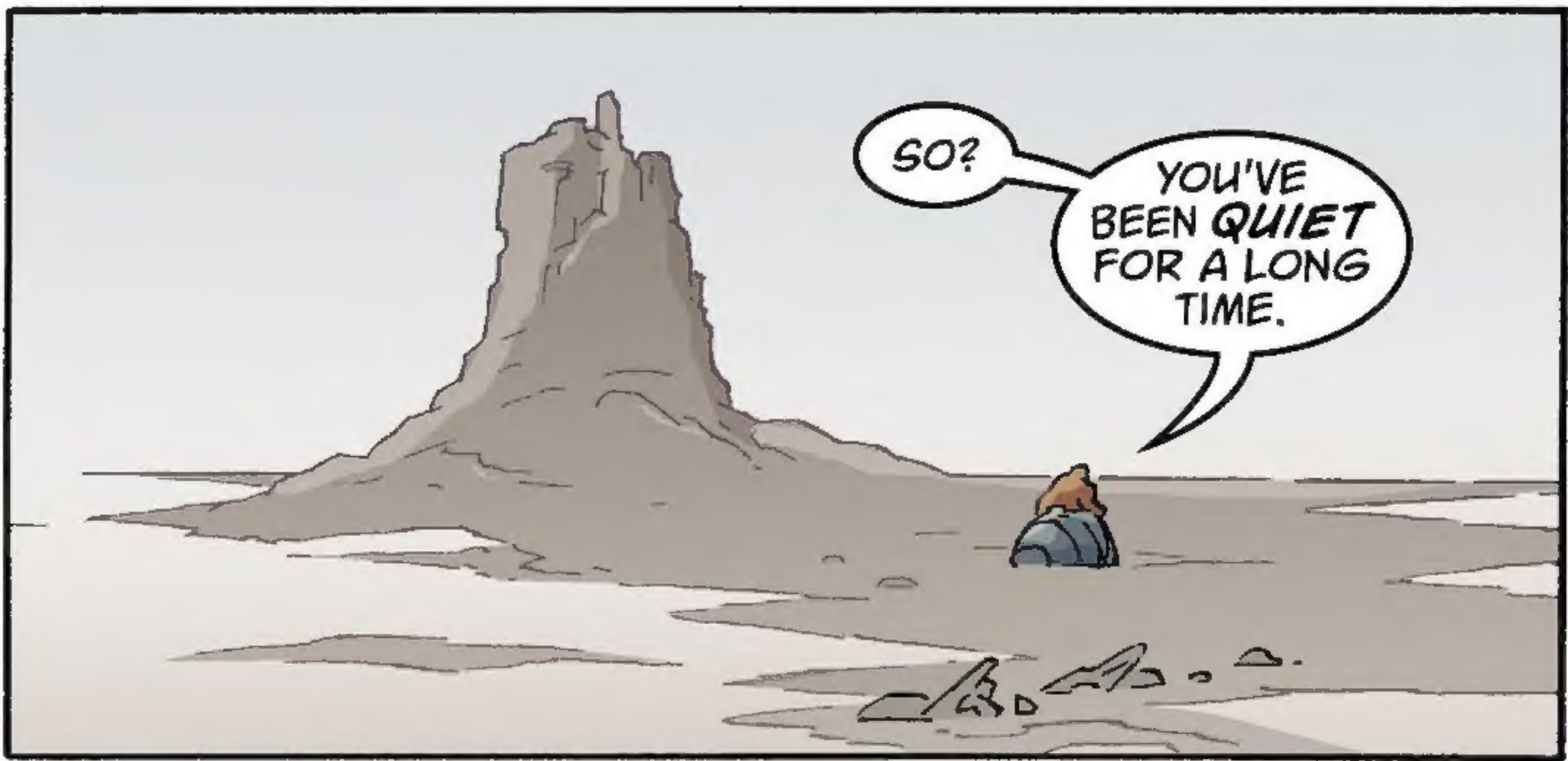
HMMMM.

SOMETHING TO **CONSIDER**, MR. WELLSTUFFED.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER.



ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A DISTANT SHORE.





# BEACH TOYS

## Chapter 7 of CUBS in TOYLAND

In which we examine the nature of the old ways, let things play out more or less as they must...

...and finally, let that inevitable other shoe drop.

AMBROSE?

THE SWORD OR THE CUP.

BOTH ARE NEEDED FOR THE OLD MAGIC.

ONE TO SPILL THE BLOOD, ONE TO CATCH IT.

ALL THE BOOKS AND LEGENDS SAY THE FISHER KING HAS TO MAKE A PERILOUS CHOICE BETWEEN ONE OR THE OTHER.

BUT WHAT IF THAT'S *NOT* THE CASE?

**BILL WILLINGHAM**  
writer/creator

**MARK BUCKINGHAM**  
pencils

**STEVE LEIALOHA**  
inks

**LEE LOUGHRIDGE**  
colors

**TODD KLEIN**  
letters

**GREGORY LOCKARD**  
asst. ed.

**SHELLY BOND**  
editor





WHAT IF THE **REAL** CHOICE IS TO TAKE UP BOTH, OR NEITHER?

THAT MAKES MORE SENSE TO ME. TO CHOOSE NOTHING IS **INDECISION**, THE TRUE ENEMY OF DARING.

BUT YOU GOT SO OLD!



DO YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?

THE CUP WILL **SAVE** ME, WHICH MEANS THE BLADE MUST BE FOR **YOU**.

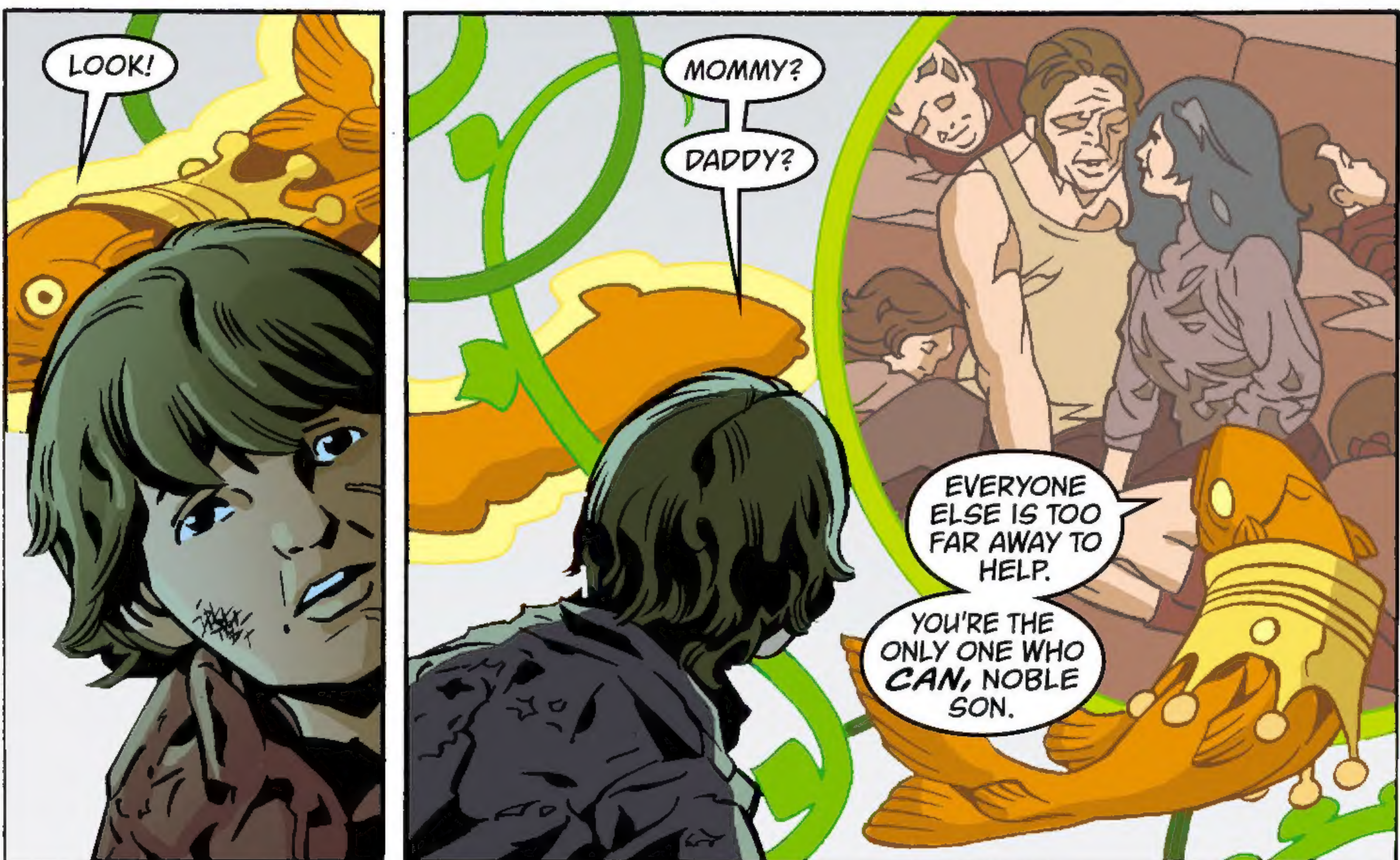


LOOK!

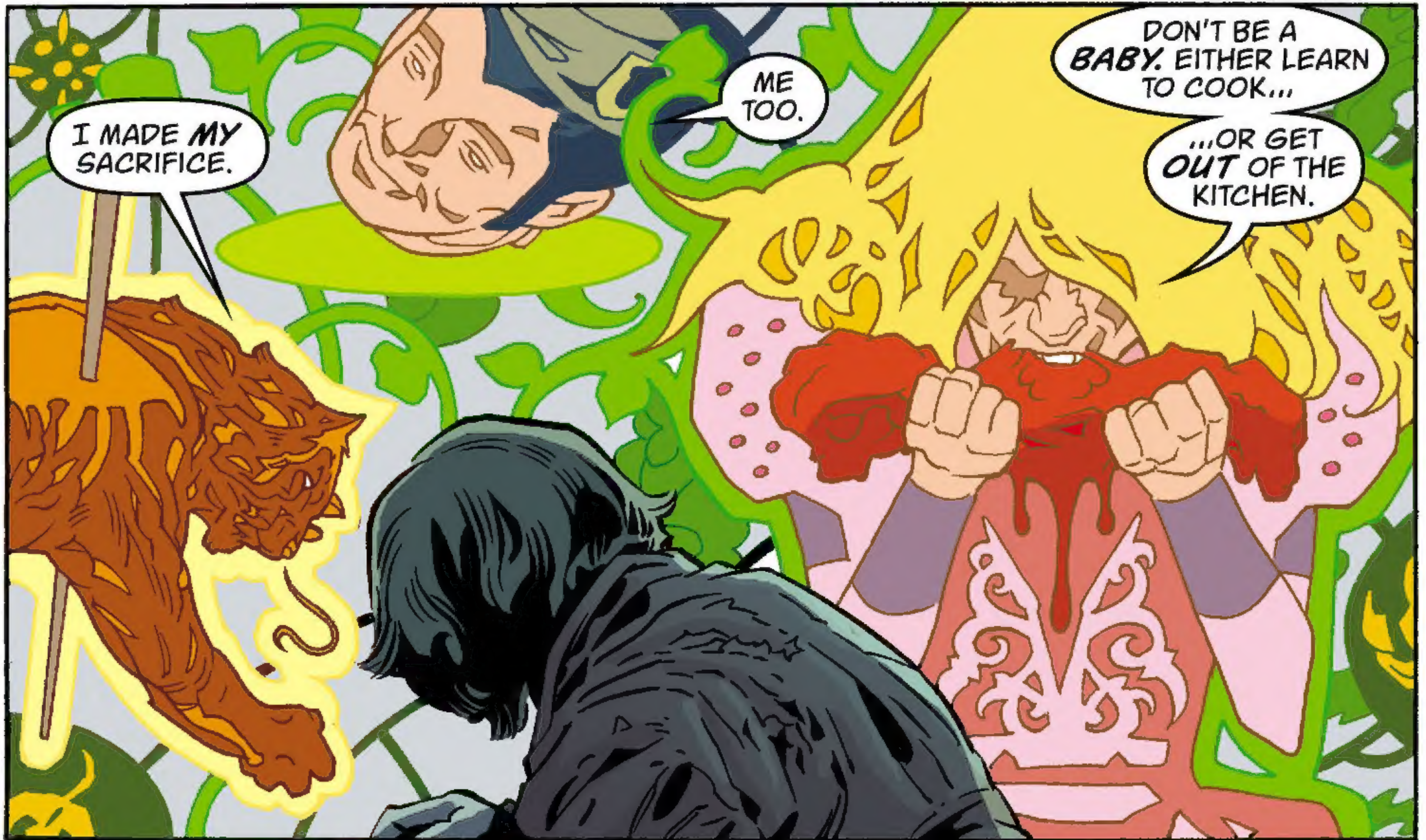
MOMMY?  
DADDY?

EVERYONE ELSE IS TOO FAR AWAY TO HELP.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO **CAN**, NOBLE SON.





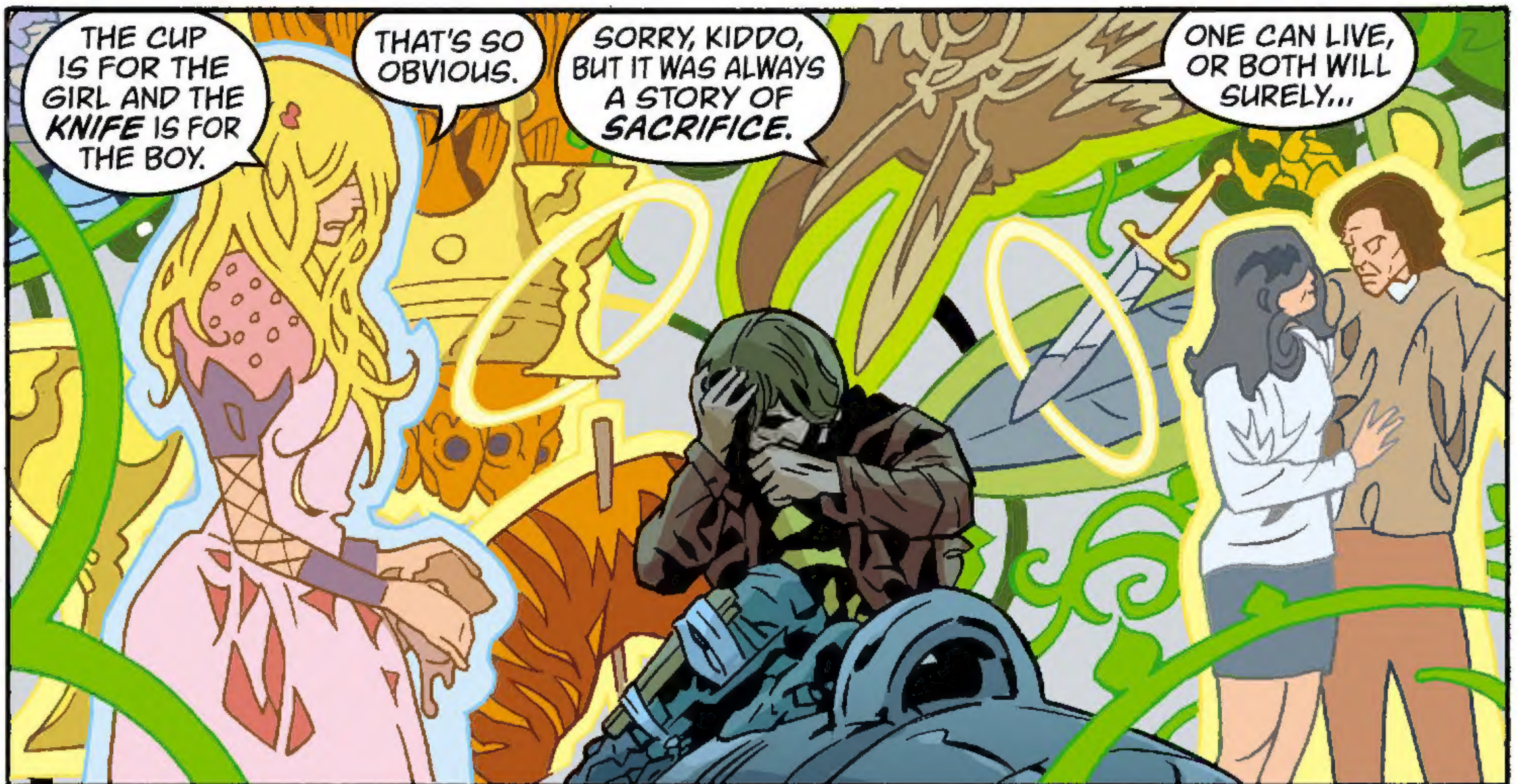


I MADE MY SACRIFICE.

ME TOO.

DON'T BE A BABY. EITHER LEARN TO COOK...

...OR GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN.



THE CUP IS FOR THE GIRL AND THE KNIFE IS FOR THE BOY.

THAT'S SO OBVIOUS.

SORRY, KIDDO, BUT IT WAS ALWAYS A STORY OF SACRIFICE.

ONE CAN LIVE, OR BOTH WILL SURELY...



IT'S YOUR JOB, SON.

PACK LEADER HAS RESPONSIBILITIES.

PLEASE STOP.



I'D TAKE THE HIT MYSELF.

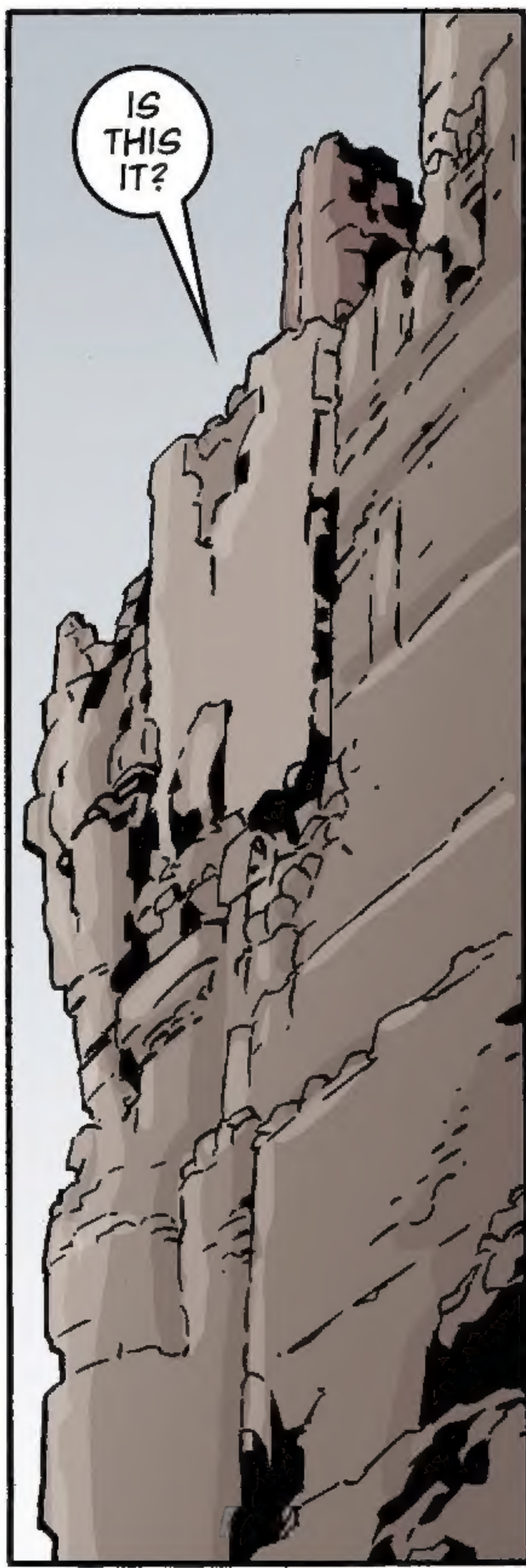
PLEASE.

BUT I'M NOT THERE.

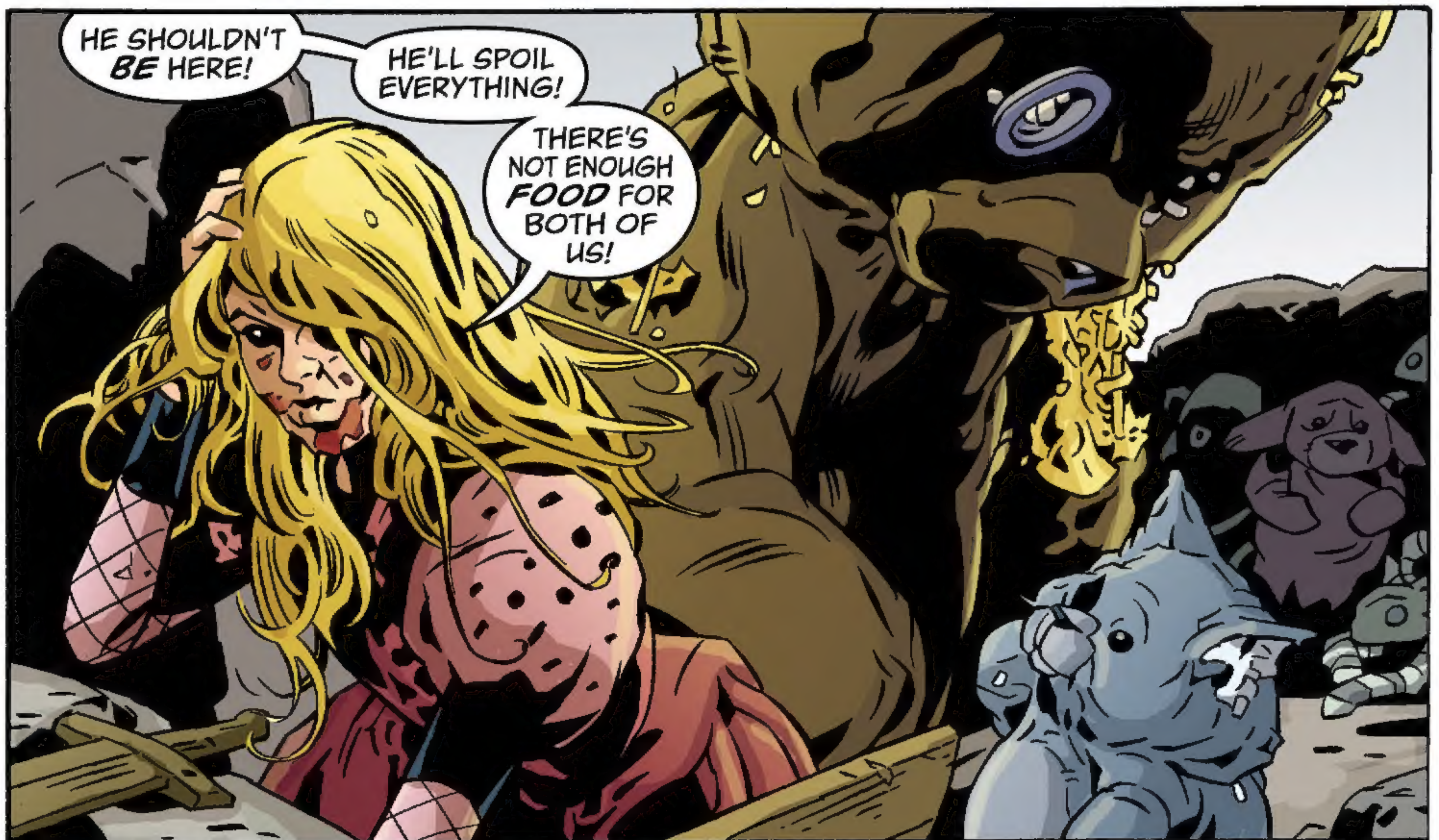
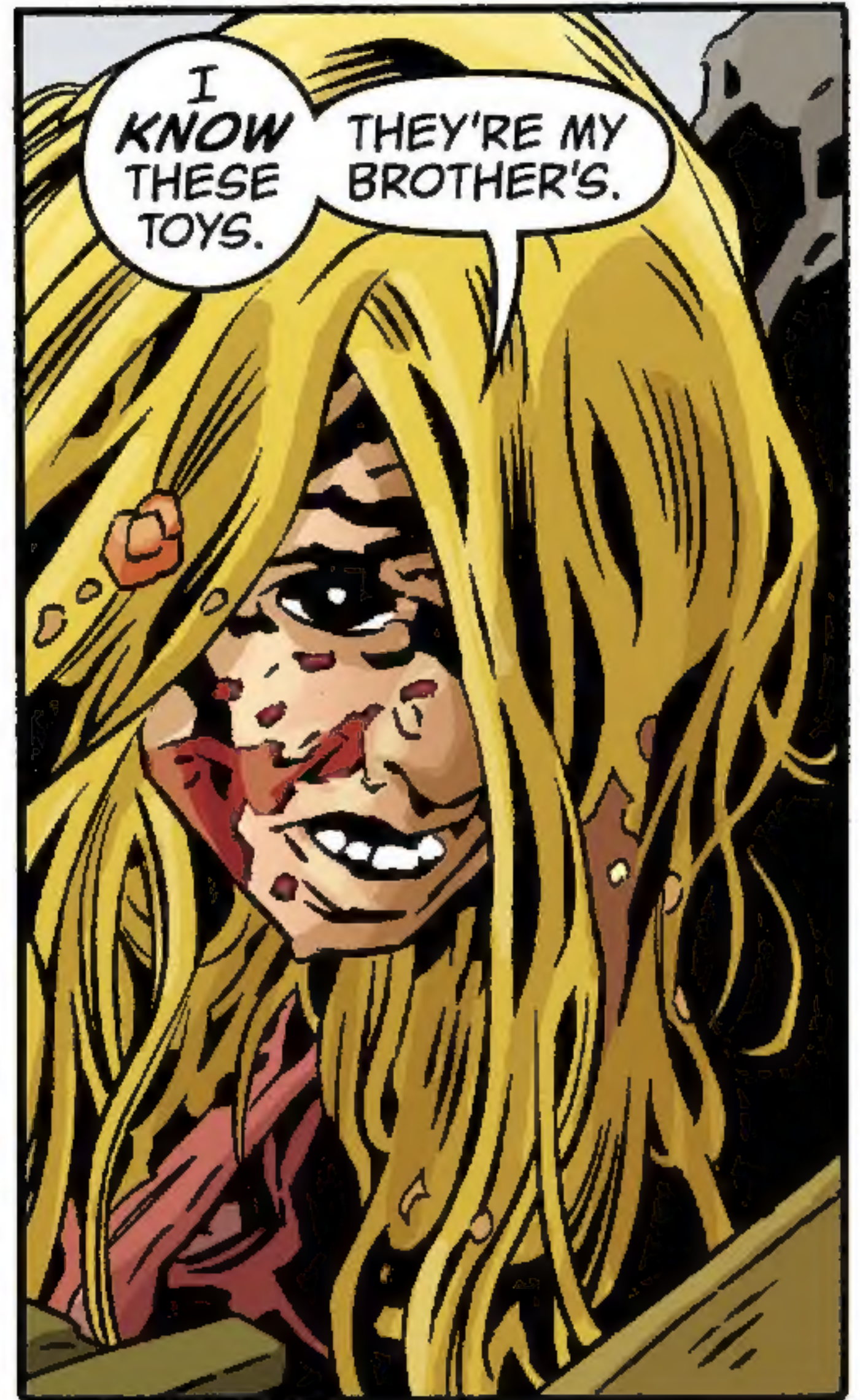
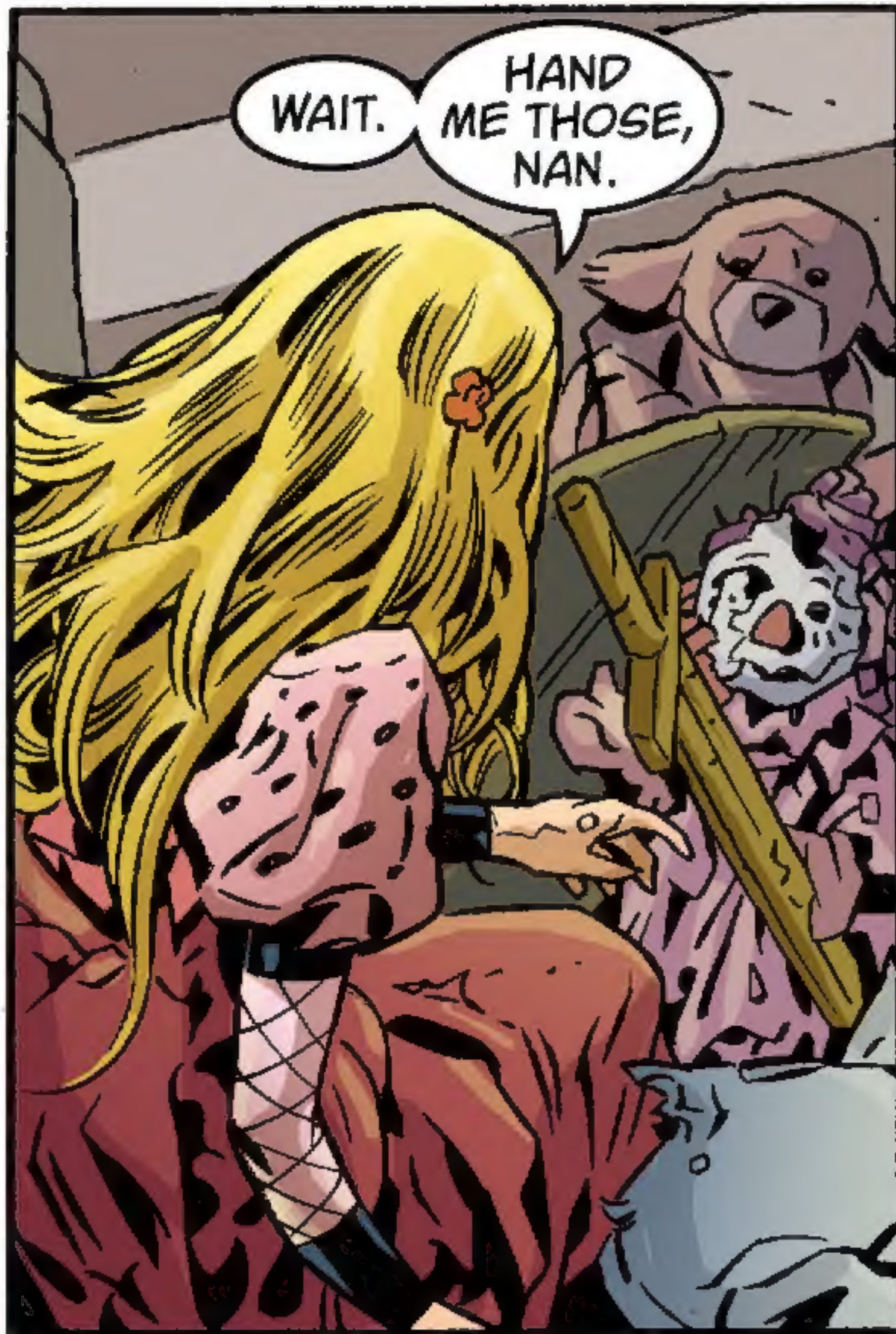
UUGGHH...











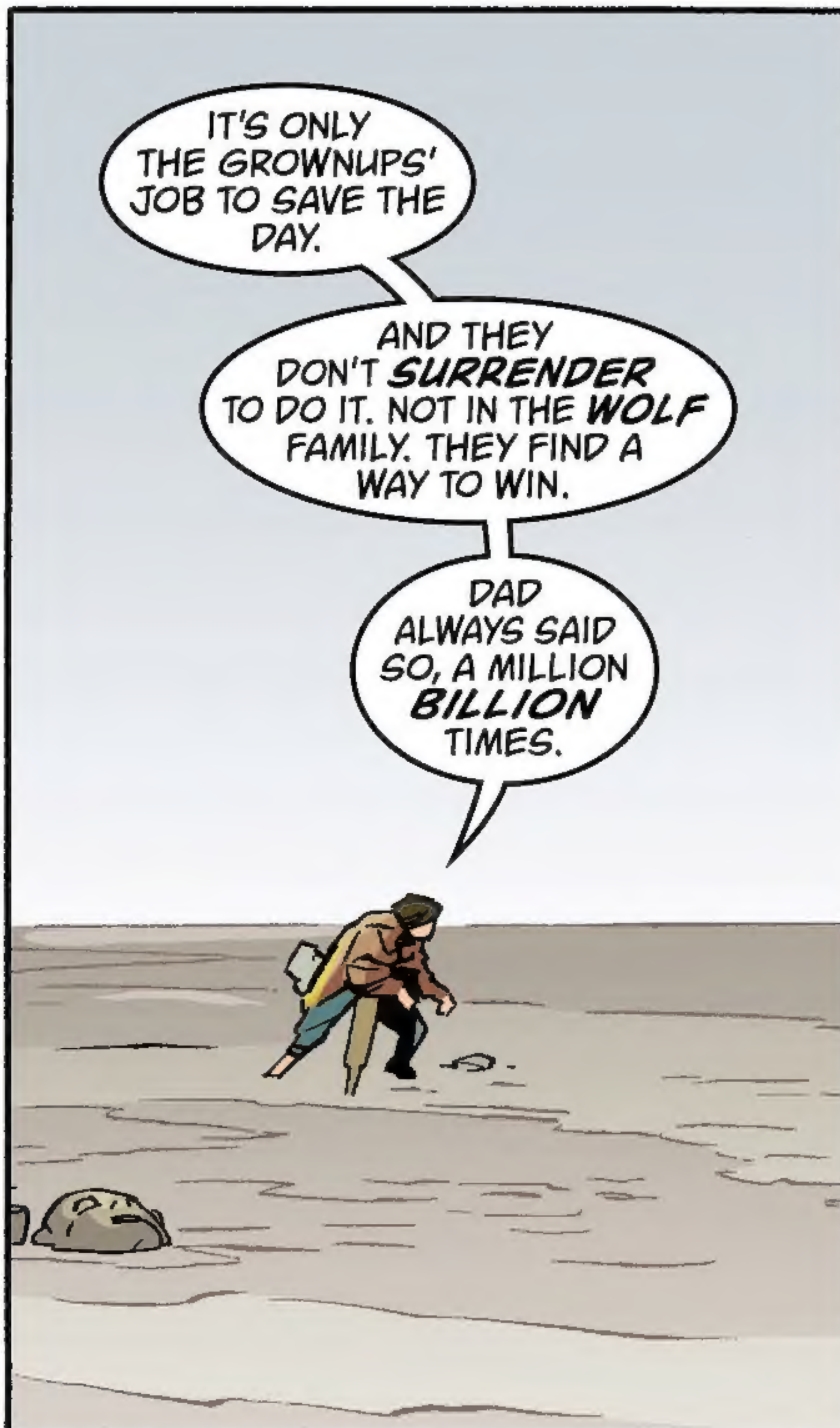




YOU CAN'T MAKE ME *DO* THAT.



YOU CAN'T!  
I'M JUST A LITTLE *KID*.



IT'S ONLY THE GROWNUPS' JOB TO SAVE THE DAY.  
AND THEY DON'T *SURRENDER* TO DO IT. NOT IN THE *WOLF* FAMILY. THEY FIND A WAY TO WIN.  
DAD ALWAYS SAID SO, A MILLION *BILLION* TIMES.



DID YOU THINK OF *THAT*, AMBROSE? HUH? DID'JA?  
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND ANOTHER WAY.



MAYBE FIND ENOUGH STUFF TO BUILD A RAFT.  
THAT COULD WORK.

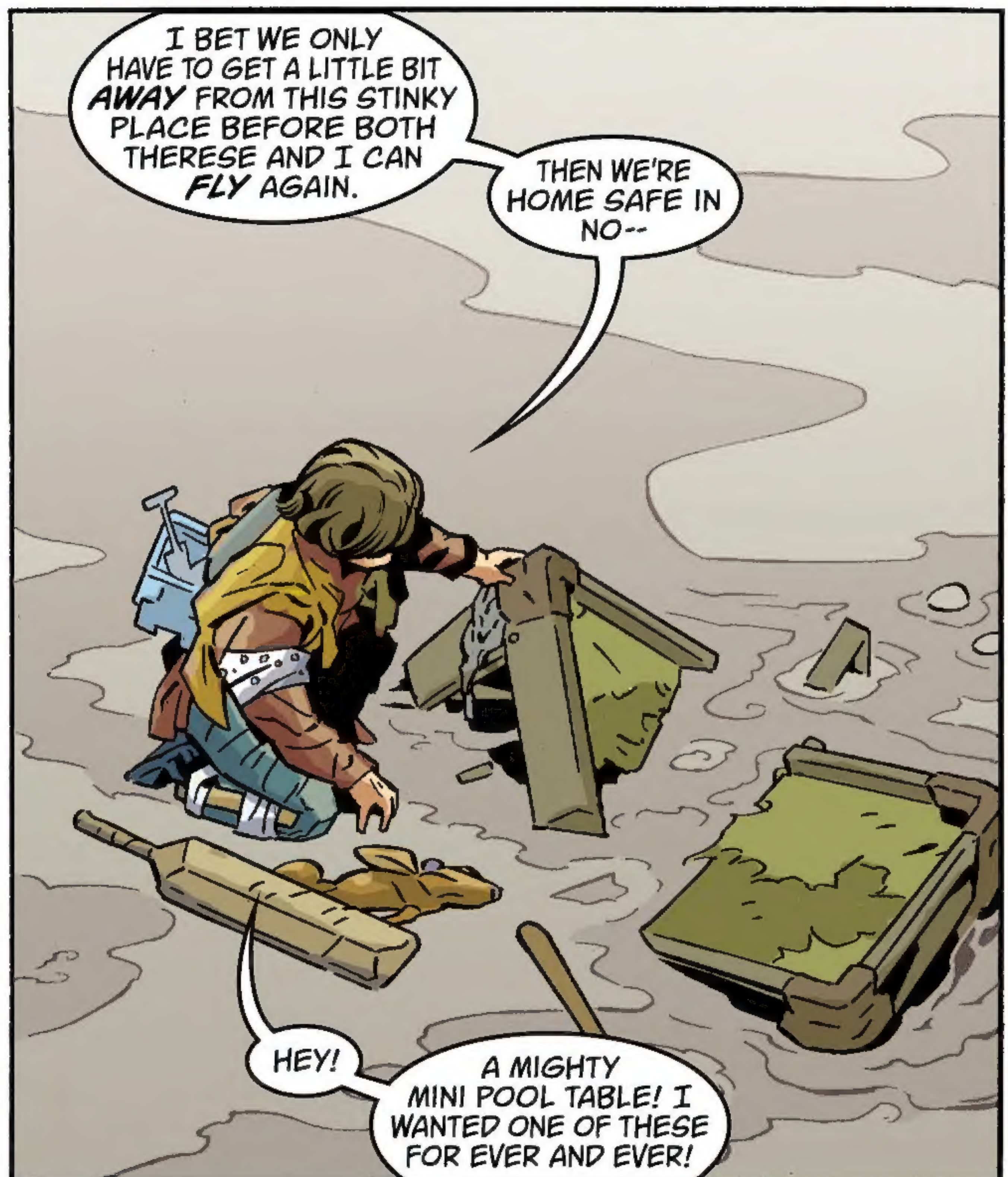


IT COULD.



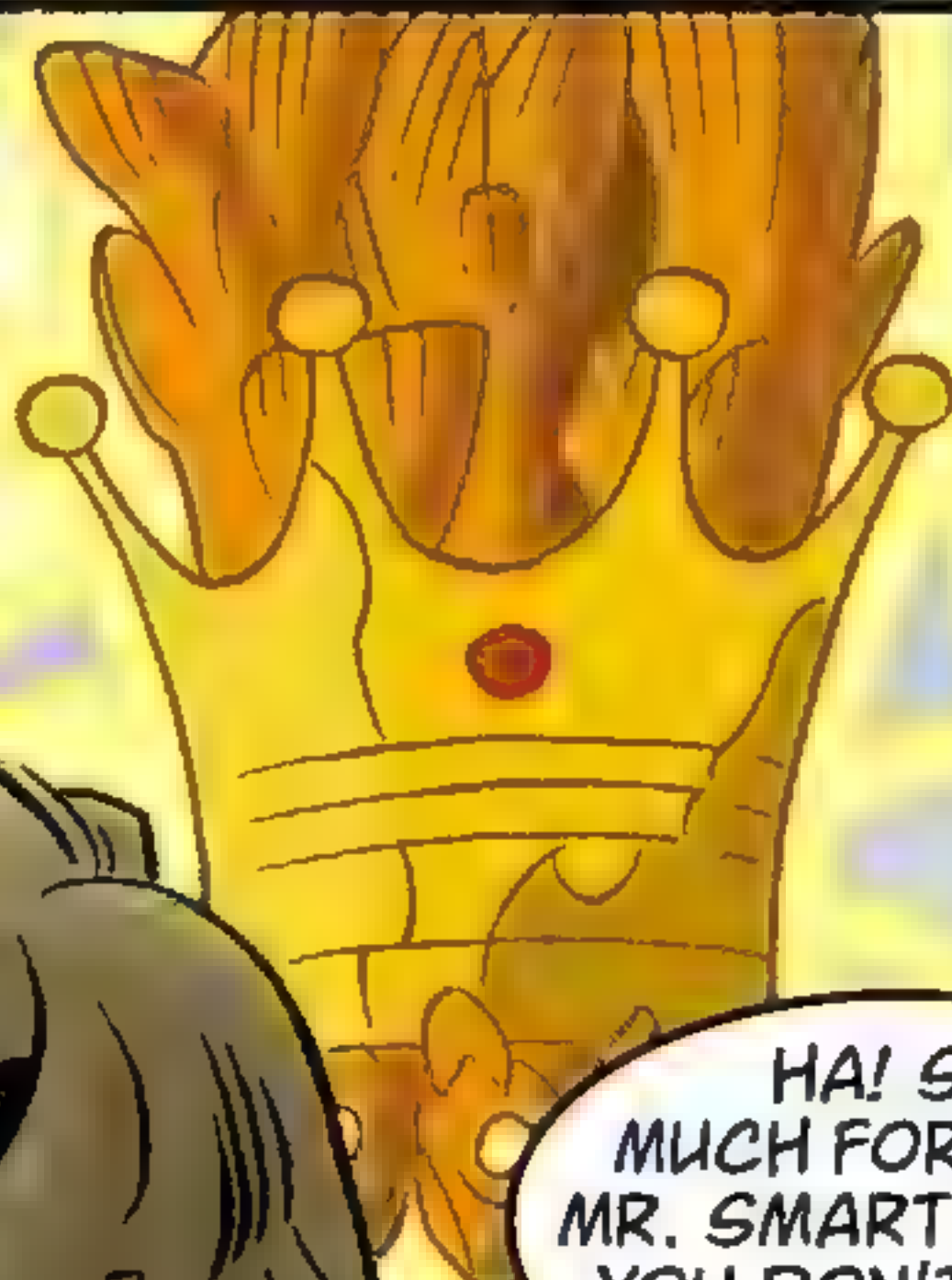
HEY THERE.







THIS GIVES ME A BIG IDEA!



HA! SO MUCH FOR YOU, MR. SMARTYPANTS! YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING!

I FIGURED IT ALL OUT ON MY OWN.

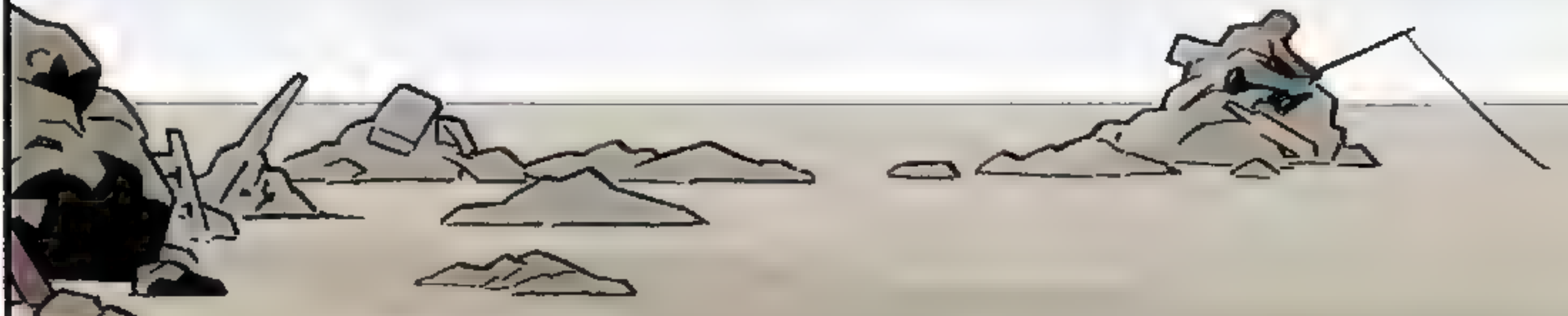


IN TIME...



I'LL BET THAT WAS THE REAL TEST ALL ALONG.

TO COME UP WITH A BETTER WAY TO SAVE BOTH OF US.



SEE? I PAID ATTENTION TO THE STORIES, TOO, NO MATTER *WHAT* AMBROSE SAID.

AND THERE'S *ALWAYS* A TRICKY WAY TO GET AWAY IN THE END. THAT'S A RULE IN EVERY BOOK.

FIRST I CATCH A FISH SO THERESE AND I DON'T CROAK.







CRAP PIES.  
THE PLASTIC WORM  
ISN'T WORKING.

BUT  
THAT'S  
OKAY.



WE AREN'T  
BEATEN YET,  
BUDDY.



WE STILL  
HAVE THE STICK,  
WHICH MAKES A  
REALLY COOL  
**SPEAR.**

I'LL BET  
AMBROSE DIDN'T  
THINK OF THIS BECAUSE  
YOU CAN'T LEARN IT IN A  
**BOOK.** YOU HAVE TO  
WATCH REAL INDIANS  
ON TV SHOWS!



SHHHHH.

COME  
ON.

A LITTLE  
CLOSER.

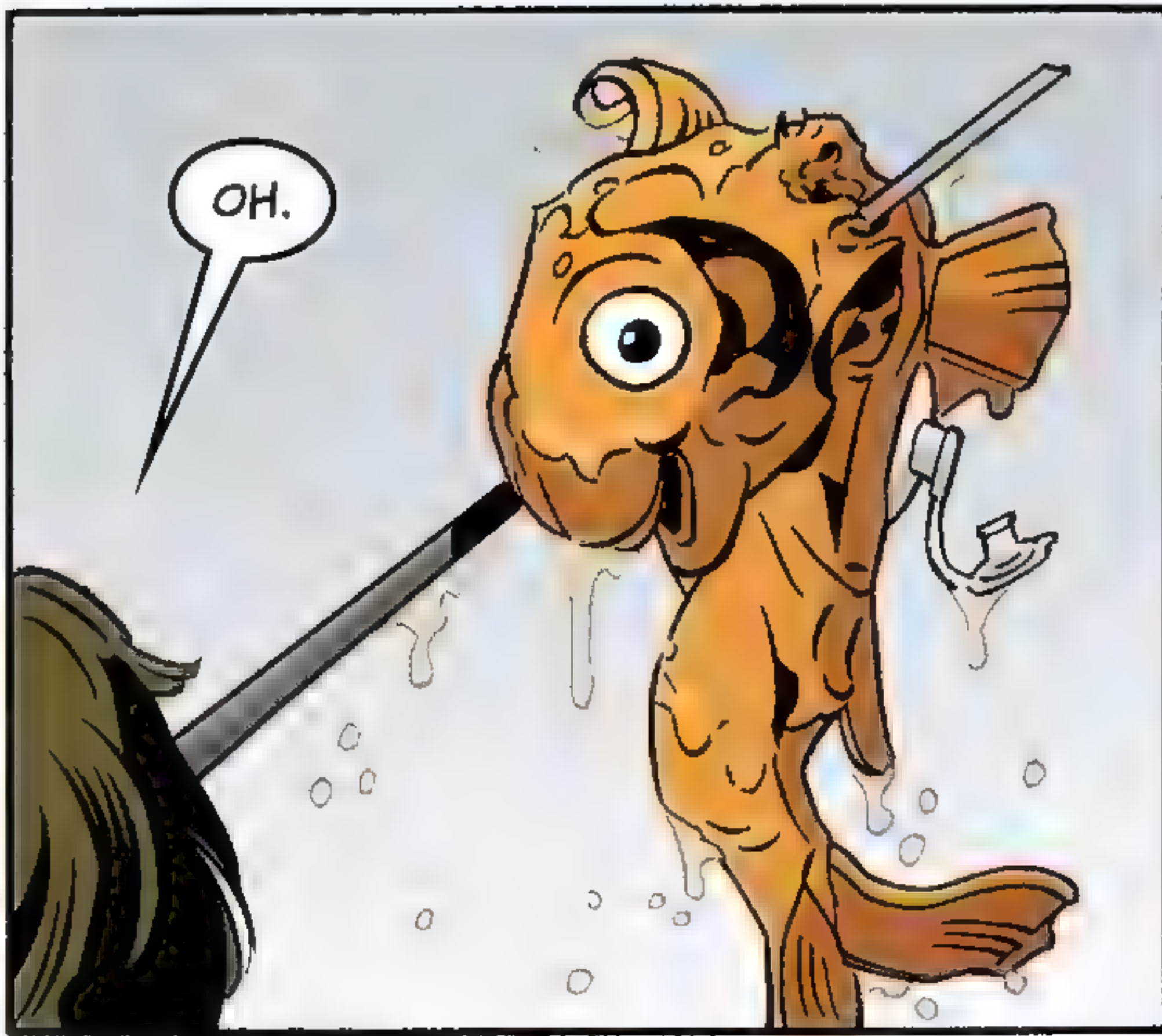


HERE  
WE GO!



HA!  
I'M  
**STILL** THE  
BEST HUNTER  
IN THE  
PACK!





OH.



RUBBER.



VERY FUNNY.



THAT'S JUST CHEATING!

I WON! I DID!

I FOUND A DIFFERENT WAY, FAIR AND SQUARE, BUT YOU--!



I DON'T WANT TO DIE.

PLEASE!

NOT YET.

I'M STILL A LITTLE KID.



CAN'T I GROW UP JUST A LITTLE MORE, FIRST?



I NEVER EVEN GOT TO DO ANYTHING YET.



PLEASE?



MINUTES, OR PERHAPS HOURS PASS.

OKAY.  
YOU WIN.

I'LL DO IT YOUR WAY.  
THE PACK LEADER HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY, RIGHT?

SITTING HERE ALL ALONG, RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.  
THE ONE THING IN TOYLAND THAT ISN'T A TOY.  
BIG DUH.

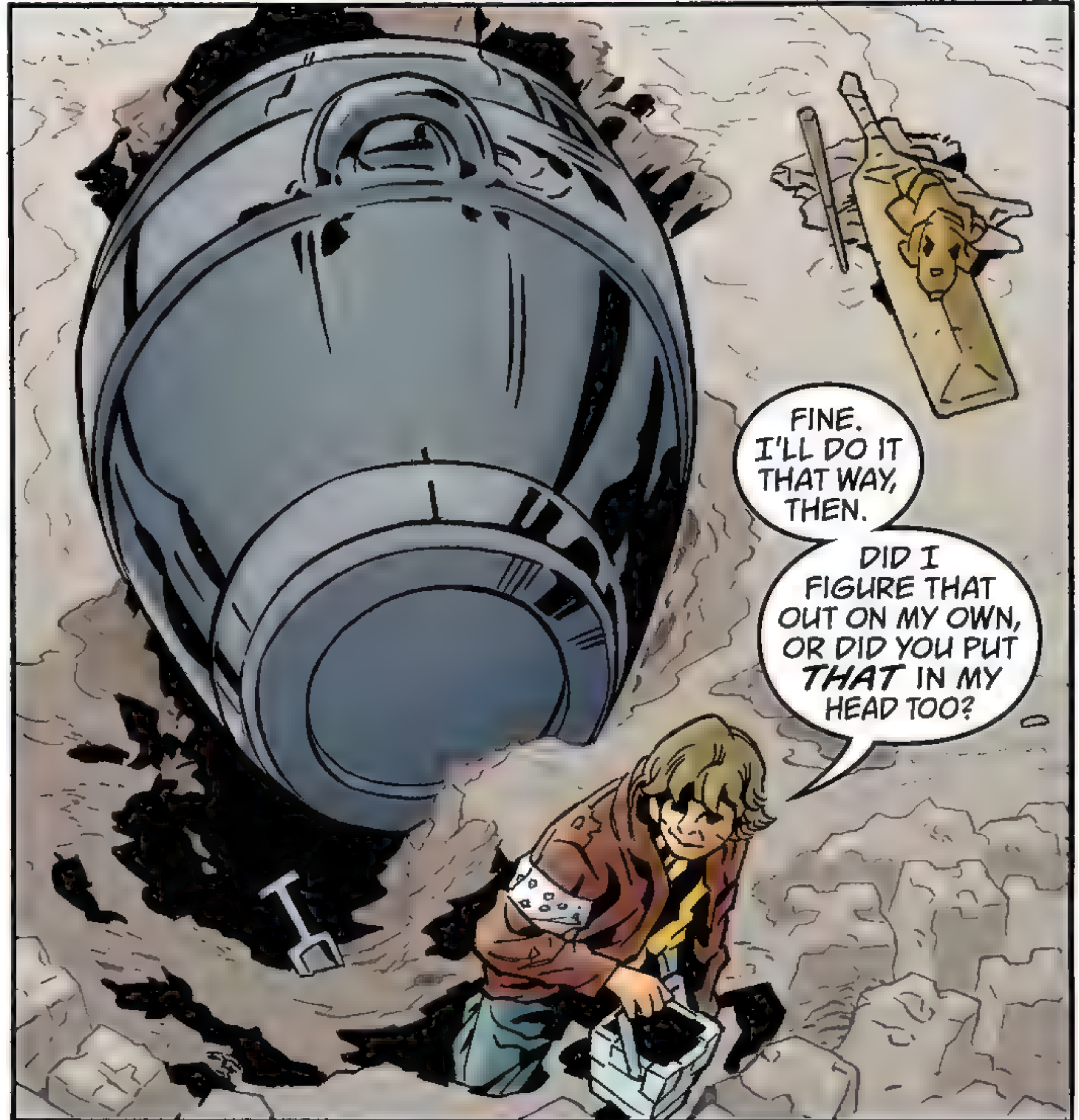
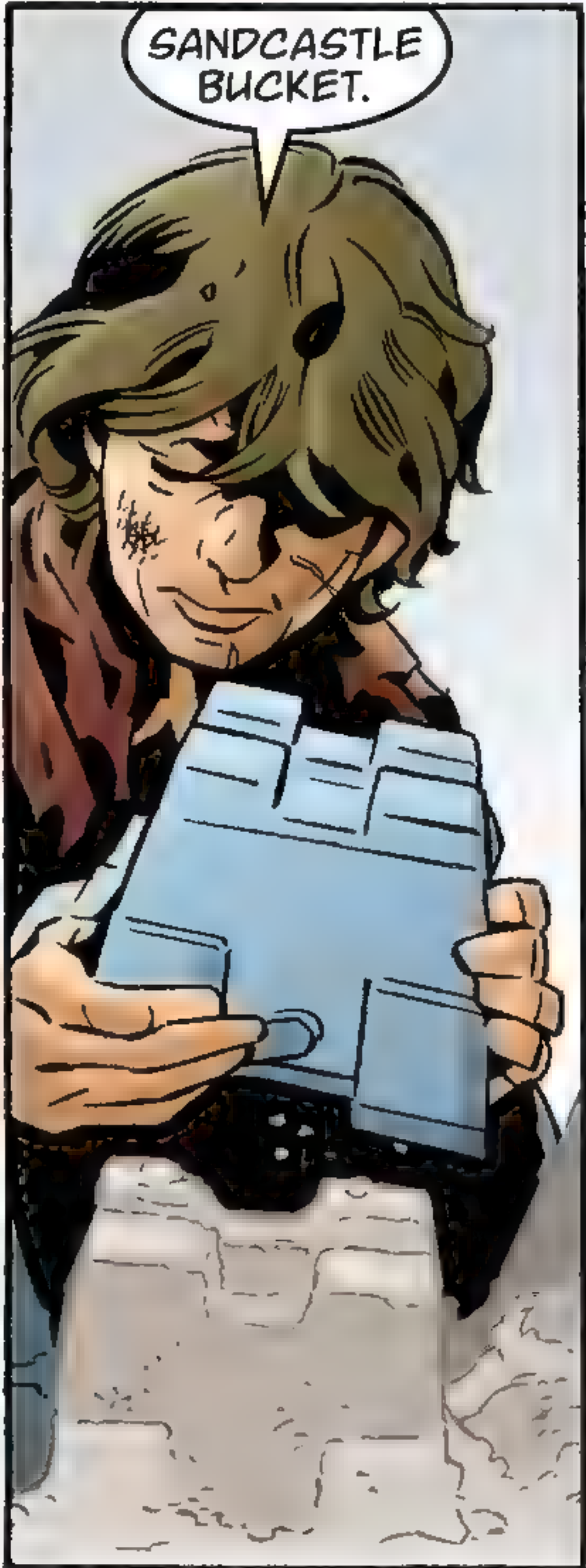
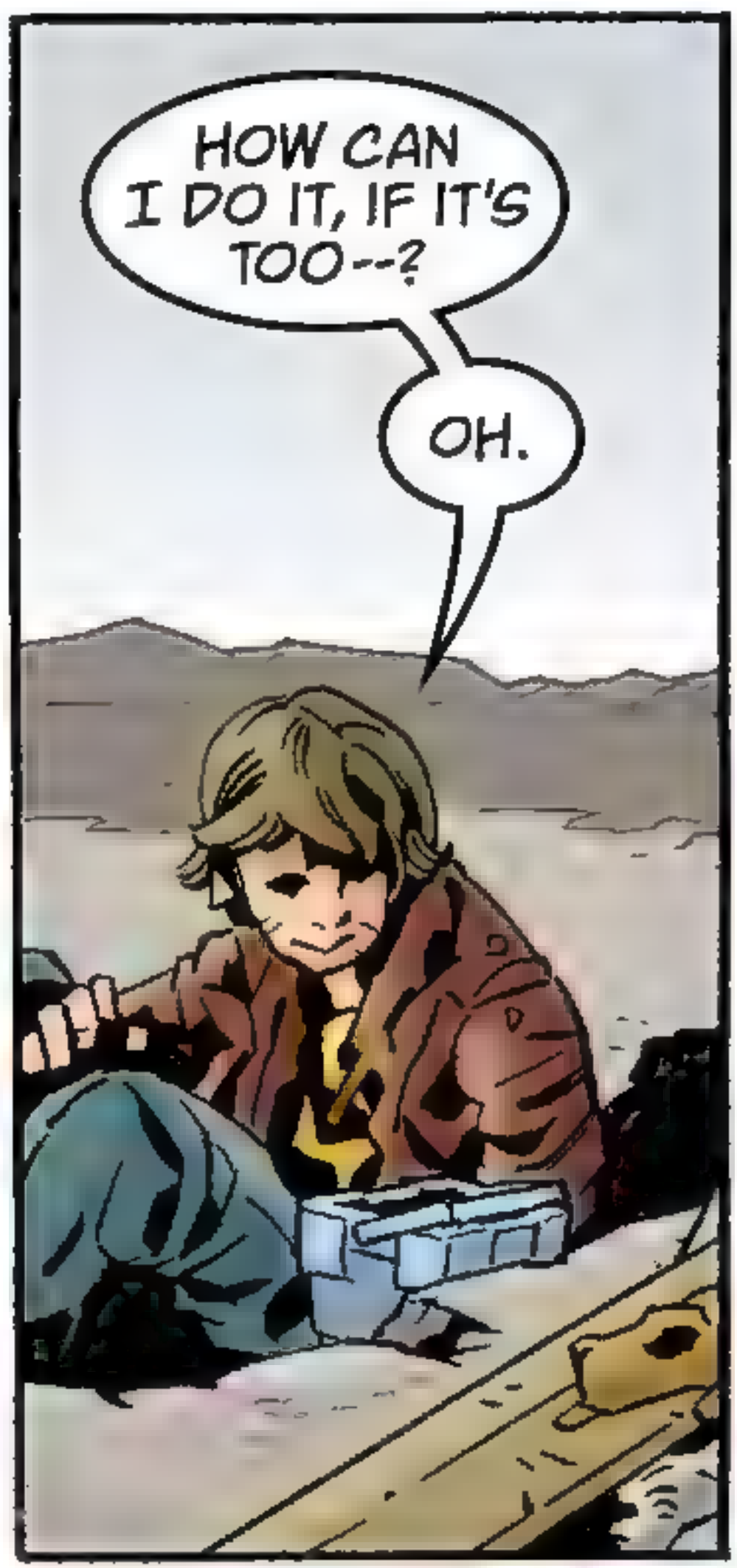
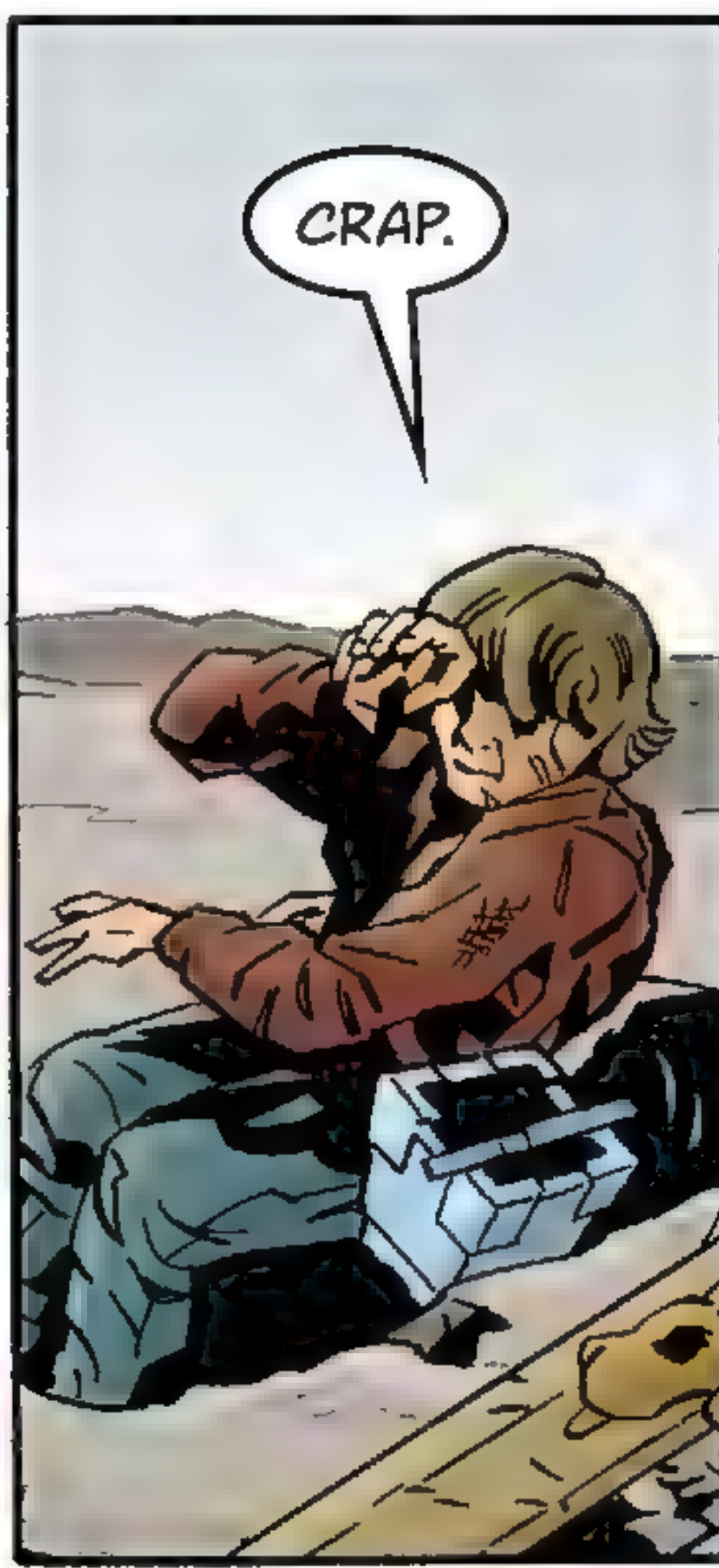
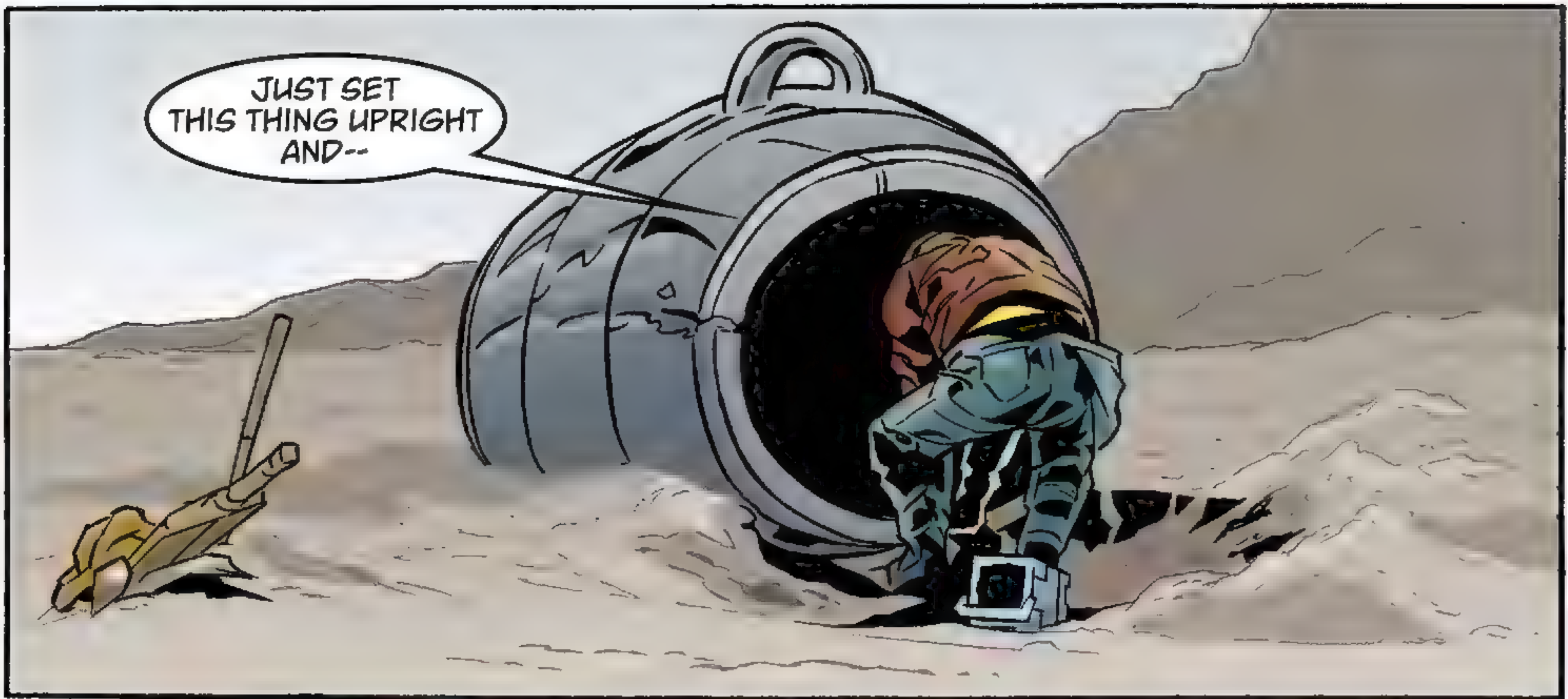
EXCEPT I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU MEANT ME.  
I UNDERSTAND NOW. WE NEEDED BOTH THE SWORD AND THE CUP.

I FOUND THE SWORD.

AND NOW I CLEAN OUT THE CUP.

CAN'T HAVE PRISSY THERESE GETTING SAND IN HER DINNER.





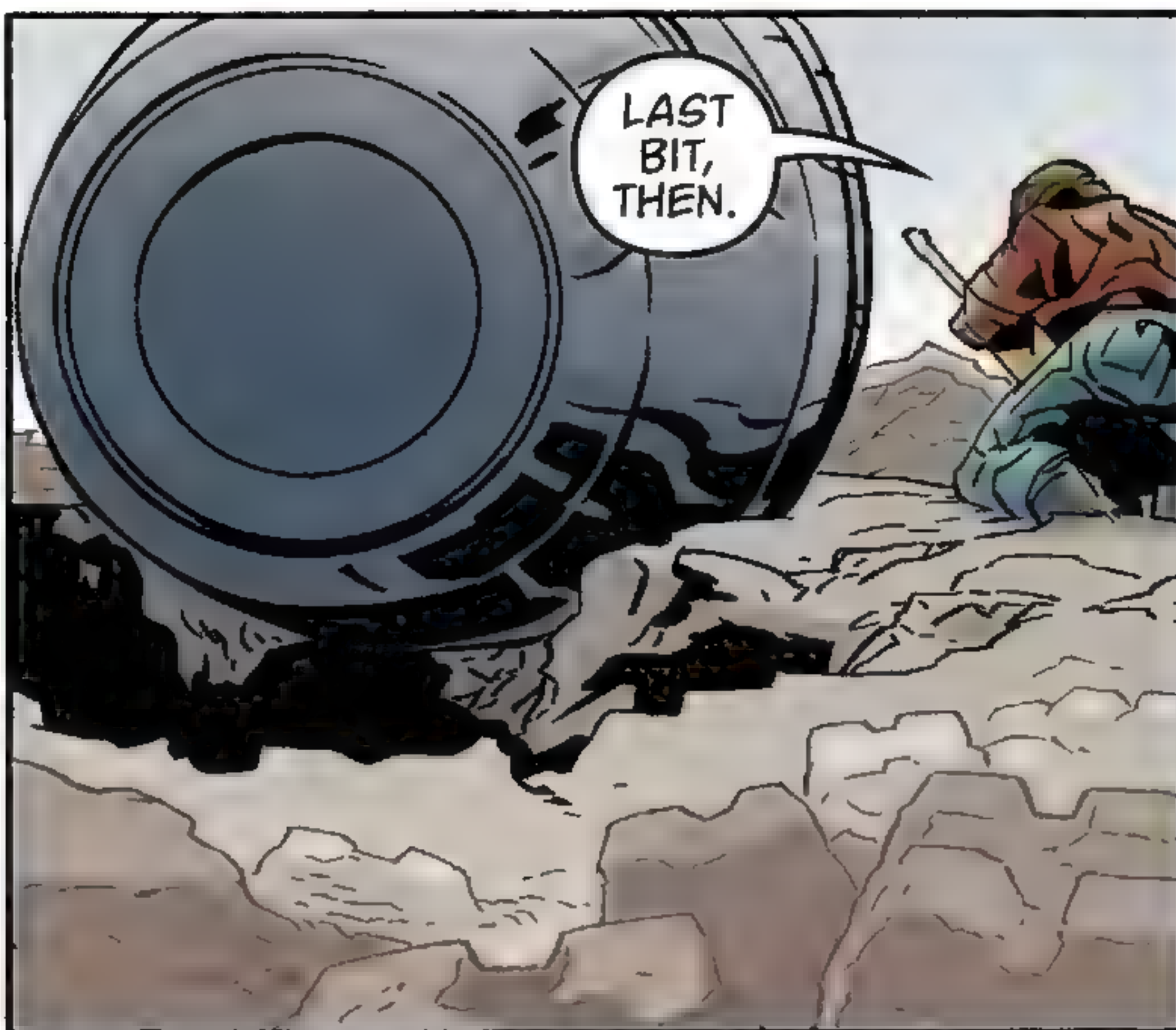
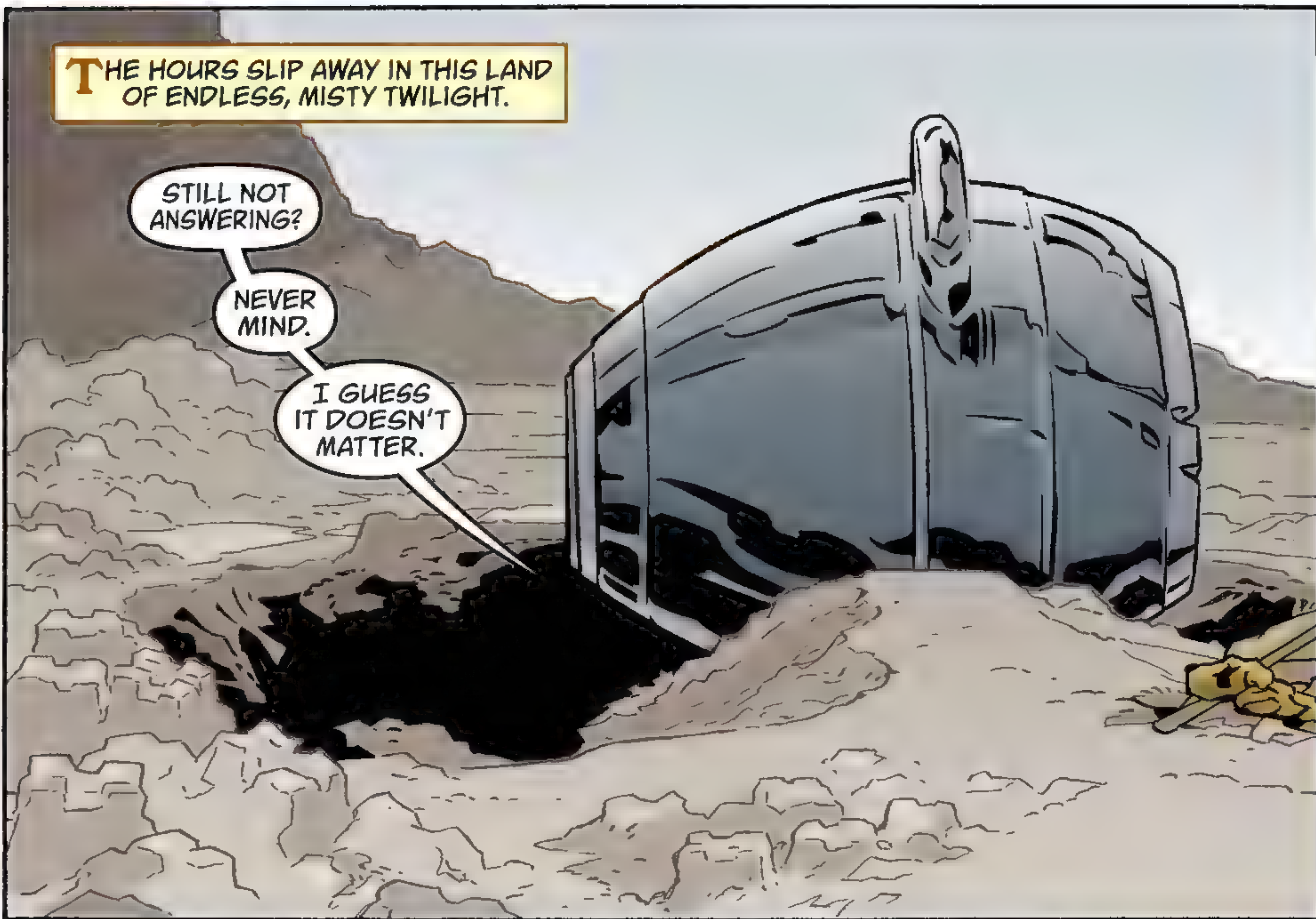


THE HOURS SLIP AWAY IN THIS LAND OF ENDLESS, MISTY TWILIGHT.

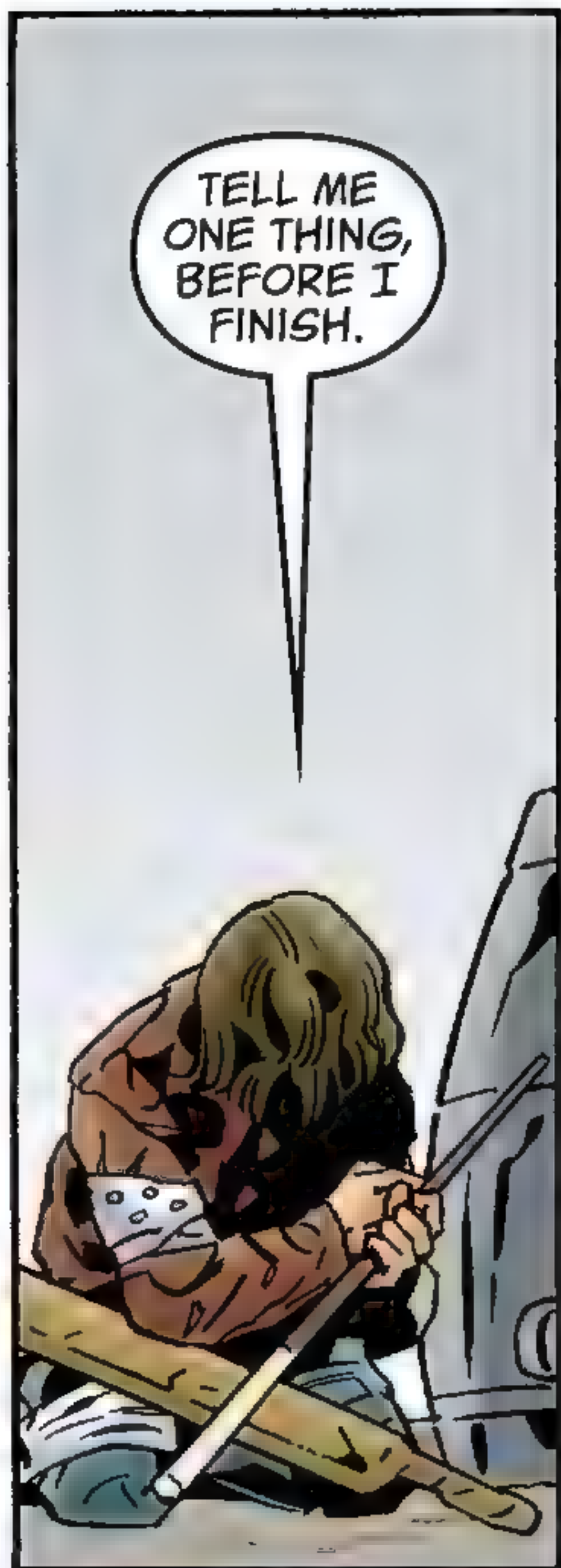
STILL NOT ANSWERING?

NEVER MIND.

I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER.







TELL ME ONE THING, BEFORE I FINISH.



WILL ANYONE EVER KNOW?



WILL THEY FIND OUT I DID THE RIGHT THING?



IN THE END I LOOKED OUT FOR HER, THE WAY THE PACK LEADER SHOULD.

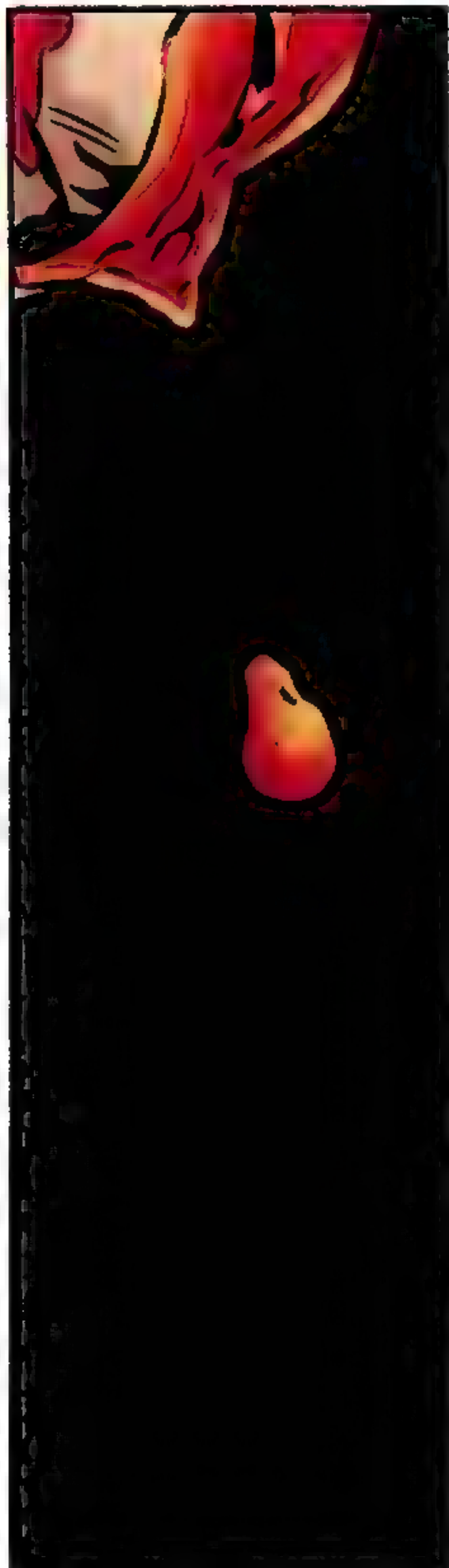
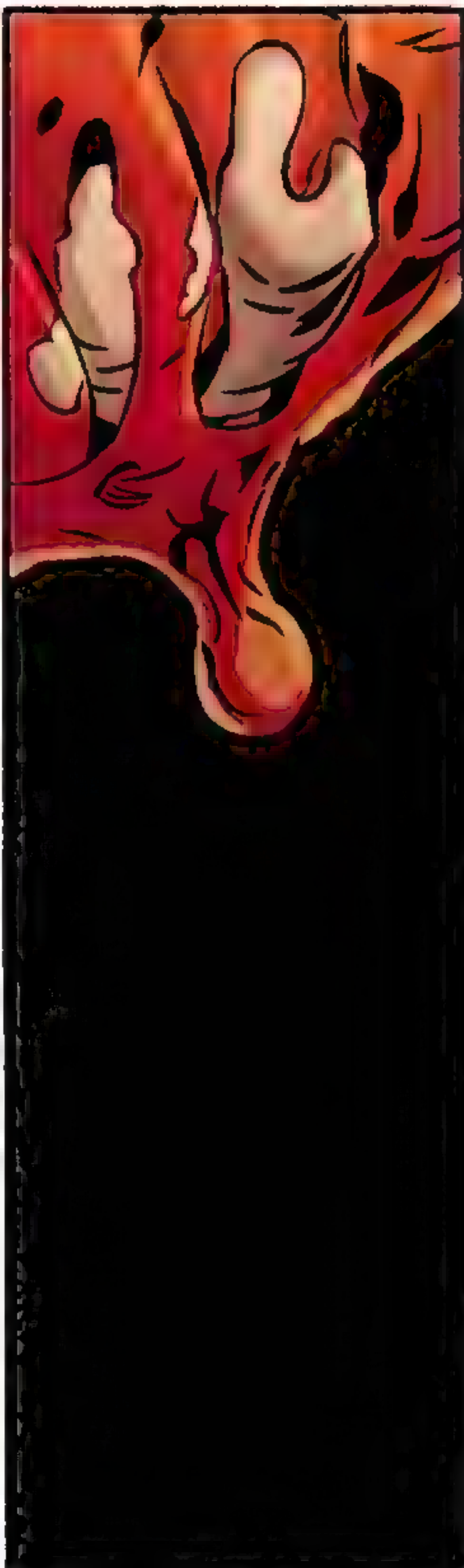
RIGHT?



YES.  
I'M READY.









# A REVOLUTION in **OZ**

## Chapter Seven: A SINGLE LOOSE ROCK

**Bill Willingham**  
writer/creator

**Shawn McManus**  
artist

**Todd Klein** letters

**Gregory Lockard**  
assistant editor

**Shelly Bond** editor

**O**N THE SECOND SECOND  
SHOE DAY, IN THE MONTH  
OF BASALT, THERE WAS A  
GREAT SLAUGHTER IN THE  
EMERALD CITY.

KEEP  
GOING!

KILL  
THEM  
ALL!

**T**HEY SAY A GREAT  
AVALANCHE CAN  
START FROM A SINGLE  
LOOSE ROCK.

CHOP  
INTO THEM  
WITH CHOPPY  
FERVOR!

DON'T  
STOP UNTIL  
EVERY MISERABLE  
HEAD IS SEPARATED  
FROM ITS DESPICABLE,  
IGNOBLE, LICE-  
RIDDEN PEASANT  
BODY!

YES,  
SIRE!





SOME SAY THE BLOODY REVOLUTION AGAINST ROQUAT THE FIRST WAS BORN OF A SINGLE THROWN LOLLIPOP.



NO ONE WHO'S SEEN MY HUMILIATION MAY LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT!

CAPTAIN, HAVE THE AIR PATROL SEARCH AMONG THE CORPSES FOR SURVIVORS AND THOSE FAKING DEATH!



AND HAVE THEM CIRCLE THE AREA FOR ANYONE WHO SCAMPERED AWAY.

YES, S--HUH?

WHERE IS THE AIR PATROL?

HOLY KRAKAMUNGO! THERE'S NO AIR COVER AT ALL OVERHEAD!



OKAY, I'M SENSING SUCCESS ACROSS THE BOARD.



ALL FLYING MONKEYS ARE GROUNDED AND IN HIDING.

AND YOU'RE CONTROLLING EVERY ONE OF US THROUGH THE GOLDEN CAP?

NO, JUST THE OFFICERS SO FAR, USING THEM TO COMMAND THE RANK AND FILE IN THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY OF BARKING ORDERS.

I BELIEVE I COULD EASILY DIAL THE CAP UP TO ELEVEN AND DIRECTLY CONTROL EACH AND EVERY MONKEY...

...BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO MAD AND DRUNK WITH POWER.





ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE US ATTACK THE GROUND ARMIES? I SUGGEST AN ALL-OUT **BLITZKRIEG**, WHILE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IS STILL WITH US.

WITH THE ADVANTAGE OF THE HIGHER GROUND, WE COULD **DESTROY** THEM IN DETAIL.



DEATH FROM ABOVE.

YEAH, ABOUT THAT. I'D PREFER TO MAKE THIS A NOT TOO SOAKED IN BLOOD REVOLUTION.

I WANT TO FIND SOME WAY TO USE YOUR FORCES **TACTICALLY**, BUT NOT MURDEROUSLY.



MY BOYFRIEND IS A MILITARY **GENIUS**. HE CAN WIN WITHOUT A LOT OF CASUALTIES.

JUST GOT WORD IN FROM HANGING ROPE, BUFKIN. THE NOME KING WENT **CRAZY**. HE'S KILLING **EVERYONE** IN THE EMERALD CITY.

YIKES!

WHY WOULD HE DO THAT? WHY WOULD ANY DESPOT DO THAT?



STILL HOPING FOR A **BLOODLESS** COUP, BUFKIN? OR SHOULD WE SUMMON THE ARMIES OF THE AIR?

WE DON'T HAVE ANY **CHOICE** NOW.



I WANTED A DEFTLY-OUTMANEUVER-THE-ENEMY KIND OF WAR, BUT ROQUAT CHOSE A KILL-THEM-ALL KIND OF WAR.

TIE ALWAYS GOES TO THE **SICKER** PUPPY.

**NEXT:**  
Death  
from  
Above!



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# BILL WILLINGHAM

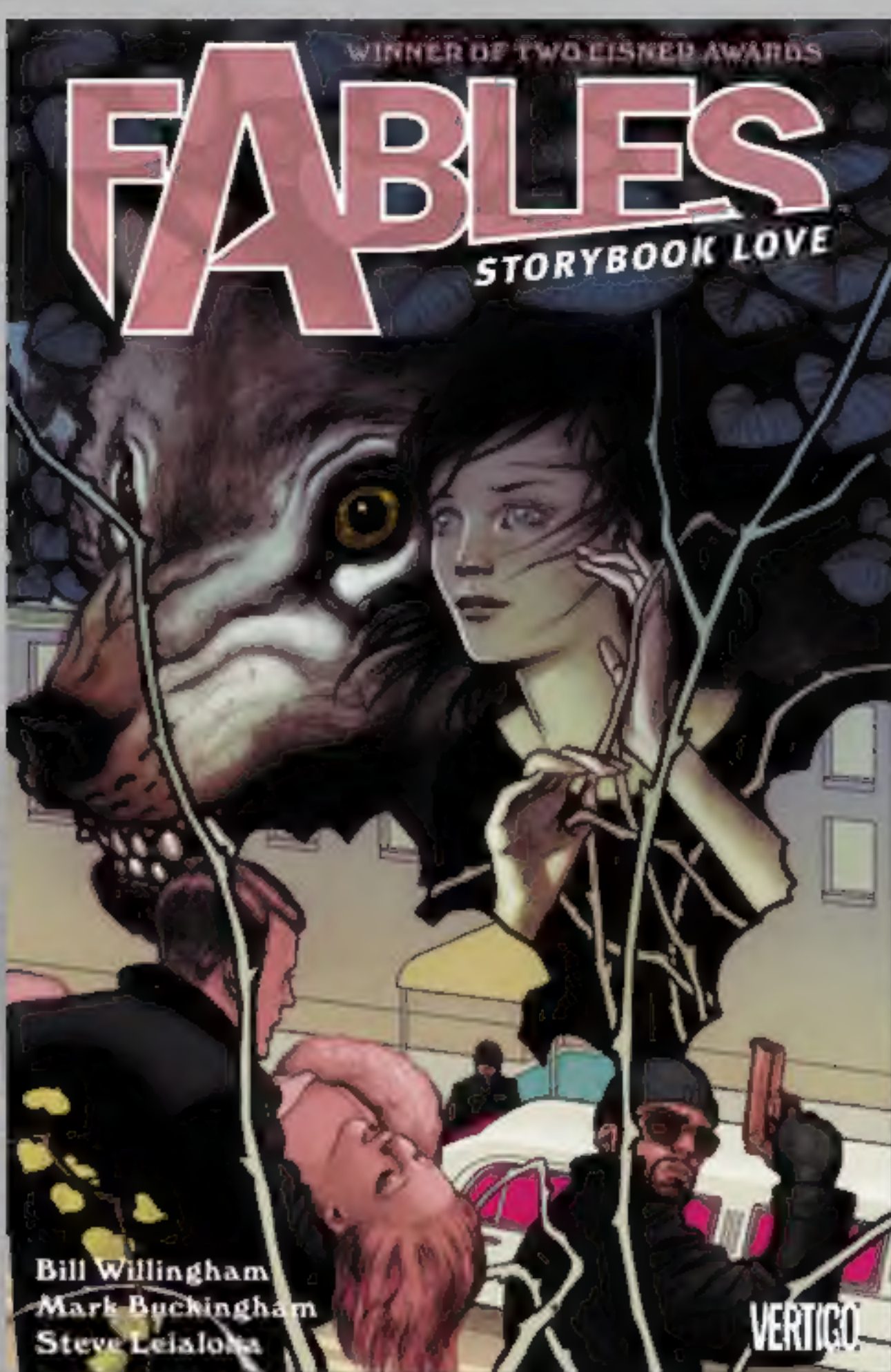
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- VOL. 4: MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS**
- VOL. 5: THE MEAN SEASONS**
- VOL. 6: HOMELANDS**
- VOL. 7: ARABIAN NIGHTS (AND DAYS)**
- VOL. 8: WOLVES**
- VOL. 9: SONS OF EMPIRE**
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- VOL. 12: THE DARK AGES**
- VOL. 13: THE GREAT FABLES CROSSOVER**
- 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL**



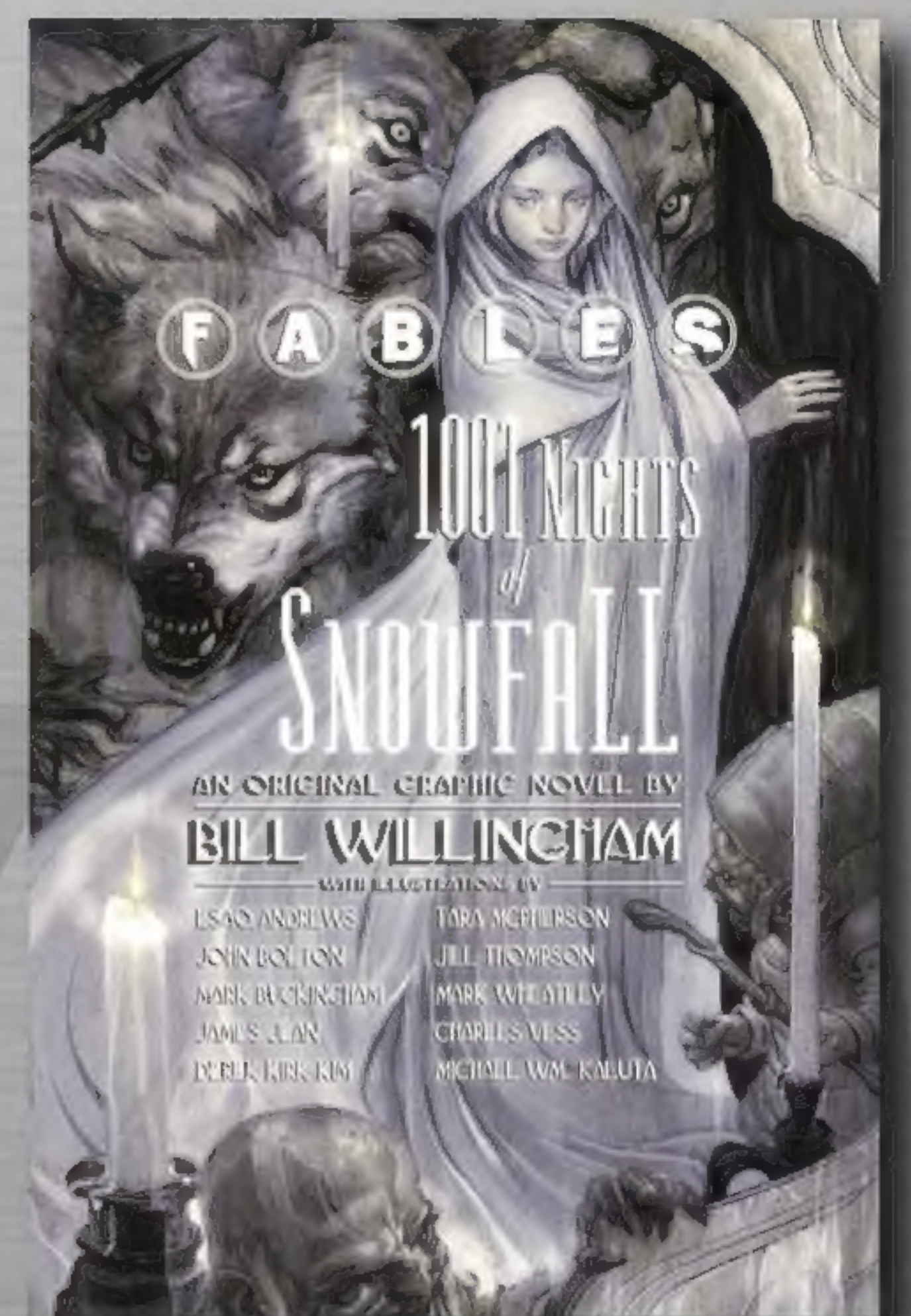
FABLES VOL. 3:  
STORYBOOK LOVE



FABLES VOL. 6:  
HOMELANDS



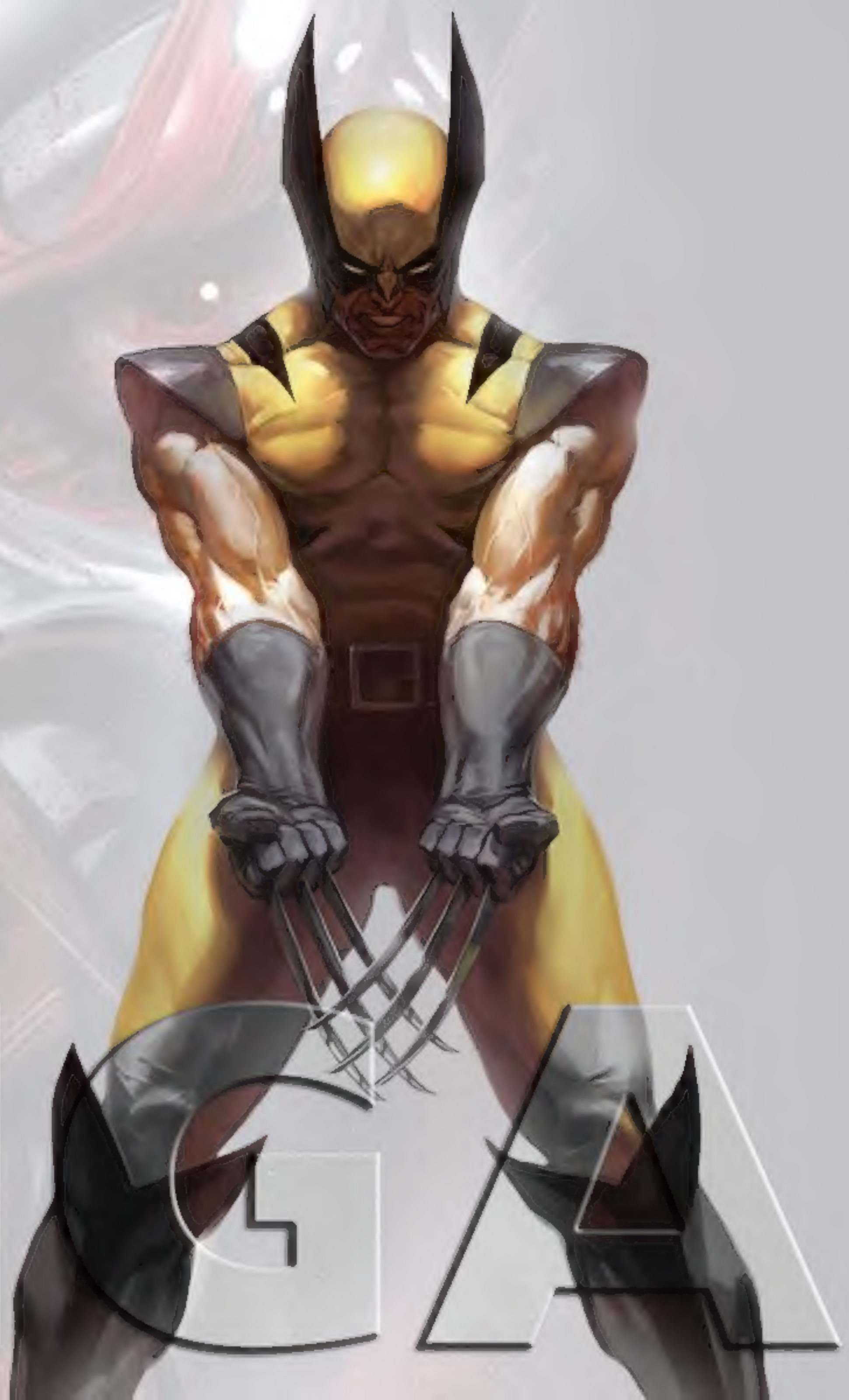
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